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NEW FOREST
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

on

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions
of the

New Forest Rural District

for the Year 1954

Submitted to the Rural District Council

by

GEORGE HABGOOD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Rural District Council.

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NEW FOREST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the New Forest Rural
District Council:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Thirty-first Annual Report on the Health, Social and Sanitary conditions of your District during the year 1954.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in acres)	94,957
Estimated mid-year Resident population	45,960
Estimated number of inhabited houses	13,606
Rateable Value 1st April, 1955	£392,485
Sum represented by a penny rate (for financial year ended 31st March, 1955)	£1,581/3/8

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, shows an increase of 480 over 1953.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The District covers an area of 94,957 acres, approximately 148 square miles, comprising 17 parishes and has a progressively rising population, which has now reached 45,960—an increase of 18% since the end of 1945.

It is bounded on the East by the River Test and the Southampton Water, on the South by the Solent and the Lymington Borough, on the West by the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council and on the North by the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council. The unique and predominating feature of the district is, of course, the ancient Crown Forest, a region of exceptional natural beauty and a home of ancient rights and privileges. The area within the perambulation of the Forest is some 92,000 acres, of which the larger portion lies within the boundaries of the Rural District. The principal industries in the Forest area are, naturally, forestry and agriculture, whilst in the areas outside the perambulation of the Forest, the waterside parts of the parishes of Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley, which contain the larger centres of population, are mainly industrial, including timber works, small shipbuilding yards, tar distilleries, the well known Esso Oil Refinery, and other light industries. These parishes are, therefore, mainly inhabited by industrial workers. The geological formation of the District is mainly made up of plateau gravel and sandy marly clays.

Rainfall: Sun hours and Temperatures (as recorded at Southampton).

Month			Rain	Sun	Temperatures	
					Maximum	Minimum
January*	...	...	.90	81.07	57	17
February	...	...	3.085	68.90	53	15
March*	...	...	2.90	119.32	58	22.5
April	...	...	.24	235.24	62	30
May	...	...	1.89	180.10	78	33
June	...	...	3.515	163.29	72	44
July	...	...	2.655	160.23	71.5	45
August	...	...	4.015	156.14	78	43
September	...	...	2.985	171.86	76	36
October	...	...	3.055	93.31	67.5	29
November	...	...	5.305	60.38	60	27
December	...	...	2.87	48.15	57	23

Total Rainfall=34.913 inches. *Also Snow.

The year was above average for rainfall, which in the past 27 years is about 27.5 inches. It should be explained, however, that in the total rainfall allowance has been made for 15¼ inches of snow. 11 Inches of freshly fallen snow equals 1 inch of rain, so that 1½ inches of rain have been credited to 1954 for its snowfall.

Sunshine totalled 1,546.99 hours, which is very poor, and, disregarding the War years, was the dullest year since 1938.

EXTRACTS OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:—				Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	372	401	773
Illegitimate	...	...	...	25	18	43
				397	419	816

Birth Rate:—		1954	1953.
Per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	17.74	17.47
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	15.2	15.5
After application of Comparability Factor (1.07)	...	19.1	18.69

Still Births:—				Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	9	5	14
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				9	5	14

		1954	1953
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)		19.2	19.72

Deaths:—

	Male.	Female.	Total
	251	188	439
		1954	1953
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ... ..	...	9.55	10.92
Death Rate for England and Wales ...	...	11.3	11.4
After application of Comparability Factor (.99) ... ..	...	9.35	10.8

Infant Mortality:—

	Male.	Female.	Total
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :			
Legitimate	7	4	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 11

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	1954	1953.
All Infants per 1,000 live births	13.4	40.2
Rate for England and Wales	25.5	26.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births	14.9	38.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	—	24.3

The Infant Mortality was the lowest ever recorded in this District. It was 7.71 per 1,000 related live births below that for 1950, the previous lowest.

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—

	Male.	Female.	Total
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 7

Rate per 1,000 related live births ... ..	...	...	5.7
Rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	...	17.7

Natural Increase of Population:—

The births registered exceeded the deaths by 377. The corresponding increase for the preceding year was 298, and the average for 1947-1953 was 329.

The Chief Causes of Death in order of frequency were:—

	1954.	1953.
(a) Disease of the heart and circulatory system	210—47%	201—40%
(b) Cancer of all sites	70—15%	90—18%
(c) Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	39— 9%	44— 8%
(d) Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	27— 6%	57—11%
(e) Tuberculosis (all forms)	4—0.78%	6—1.2%

There were no deaths from any of the zymotic diseases other than tuberculosis.

SUMMARY OF COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Popu- lation	New Forest R.D.C.			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	31,071	58.02	15.86	12.68	65	15.3	12.0
1937	36,130	40.57	17.74	11.12	58	14.9	12.4
1942	40,011	49.73	10.09	10.89	N.A.	15.8	11.6
1947	40,070	27.80	21.53	10.50	41	20.5	12.0
1948	41,200	35.39	19.19	9.26	34	17.9	10.8
1949	41,480	29.75	18.63	10.96	32	16.7	11.7
1950	44,200	21.11	15.99	10.92	30	15.8	11.6
1951	44,900	25.86	18.08	10.91	29.6	15.5	12.5
1952	45,090	29.83	17.09	9.39	27.6	15.3	11.3
1953	45,480	40.2	17.47	10.92	26.8	15.5	11.4
1954	45,960	13.4	17.74	9.55	25.5	15.2	11.3

N.A.—Not available.

I.M.R.—Infant Mortality Rate expressed as per 1,000 live births.

B.R.—Birth Rate expressed as per 1,000 resident population.

D.R.—Death Rate expressed as per 1,000 resident population.

NOTES ON THE YEAR—ENGLAND AND WALES.

(Taken from the Registrar General's Return)

Births:—

The Birth Rate per 1,000 home population (as at mid-1954) was 15.2. This was 0.3 lower than that for 1953. The illegitimacy rate was 46 per 1,000 live births, or 3 per 1,000 below the average for the preceding five years.

Deaths:—

The death rate was 11.3 per 1,000 home population. This was 0.1 lower than that for 1953. Infant Mortality was 25.5 per 1,000 related live births, and was the lowest ever recorded in this country. It was 1.3 per 1,000 below that for 1953, the previous lowest.

Marriages:—

The marriage rate of 15.4 was 0.2 below that for 1953.

Population Estimates:—

The estimated total population for the year was 44,480,000—an increase of 190,000 over the estimate for 1953.

Effective Reproduction Rate: —

The effective reproduction rate corresponding to the births which occurred, after making allowance for continuing improvement in survivorship conditions, is provisionally assessed at 1.035, indicating that births of 1954 were 3.5% above those required by a par replacement.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:—

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 3 Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

A moiety of the salaries of all Officers is received under the Public Health Acts and the Sanitary Officers devote the whole of their time to their duties.

Laboratory Facilities:—

For chemical examinations at the Southampton Corporation Laboratory and bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratories, Winchester and Southampton.

A fee is charged by the Southampton Corporation. The Public Health Laboratories Service is directed by the Medical Research Council, for the Ministry of Health, and no fees are charged.

Ambulance Facilities:—

The ambulances operating in the area are controlled from the County Council's main station at "Hillcroft," New Street, Lymington, telephone number Lymington 2331, and all requests for transport should be made to the Officer in charge of that station.

The work in the area is shared between the main station at Lymington and the sub-stations at Totton and Fawley, with assistance from the adjoining sub-stations at Ringwood, Christchurch, New Milton and Romsey.

All types of cases are conveyed, with the exception of small-pox cases, for which special arrangements are made.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Nursing at Home:—

Details of the General Nurses serving in the District who are able to give attention to cases at home on a Medical Certificate, are:—

BOLDRE DISTRICT.—Miss M. H. Mitchell, Knapton Cottage, Pilley. Tel. Lymington 564.

BROCKENHURST DISTRICT.—Miss F. D. Shiers, Nurse's Cottage, Meerut Road, Brockenhurst. Tel. 2380.

DIBDEN, MARCHWOOD & HYTHE DISTRICT.—Miss R. Wess, Three Firs, Atheling Road, Hythe. Tel. Hythe 2230. Miss P. Morgans, 5, Langdown Road, Hythe. Tel. Hythe 2215.

EAST BOLDRE & BEAULIEU DISTRICT.—Miss K. Mann, Memorial Cottage, Beaulieu. Tel. Beaulieu 212.

FAWLEY DISTRICT.—Mrs. D. Clarebout, 29, Heather Road, Fawley. Tel. Fawley 312.

LYNDHURST DISTRICT.—Miss D. Emery, 1, Church Cottages, Emery Down. Tel. Lyndhurst 250.

NETLEY MARSH DISTRICT.—Miss H. M. Davies, 1, Regis Cottages, Bartley. Tel. Cadnam 3220.

NETLEY MARSH DISTRICT.—Miss J. Stubbs, Dell Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Copythorne. Tel. Cadnam 3247.

SWAY DISTRICT.—Mrs. M. F. Lipscombe, The Bungalow, Station Road, Sway. Tel. Sway 314.

TOTTON (Midwifery).—Appointment vacant.

TOTTON (District Nurse & Midwife).—Miss S. P. Alloway, 22, Players Crescent, Totton. Tel. Totton 3256.

Home Help Service:—

The object of the Home Help Service is to relieve anxiety by providing someone to help with the housework and care of children (if any) while the housewife is prevented from working by sickness or accident, or during confinement, or for any other persons, aged and sick, requiring help.

There is an office serving the New Forest area at The Health Centre, Rumbridge Street, Totton (Tel. Totton 3250). This office is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Applications, which must be supported by a Doctor's Certificate, may also be sent to Miss M. P. Stevens, Divisional Organiser, 13, Stour Road, Christchurch (Tel. Christchurch 900).

Clinics and Treatment Centres:—

(a) Speech Clinics (by appointment):—

Brockenhurst.—Brookley Road. Monday, p.m. (in Term time).

Christchurch.—Health Centre, Millhams Street. Thursday a.m. and p.m. and Friday a.m.

Lymington.—Health Centre, New Street. Monday a.m. and p.m.

Ringwood.—Conway Hall, Ringwood. Fridays p.m.

Southampton.—18, Archers Road. Wednesdays a.m. and p.m.

Totton.—Health Centre, Rumbridge Street. Tuesday a.m. and p.m.

(b) Child Welfare Centres:—

Blackfield Baptist Church Hall.—1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays. (Doctor not in attendance 2nd and 4th Mondays).

Boldre, Memorial Hall, Pilley.—2nd Thursday.
 Brockenhurst, New Forest Hall.—1st and 3rd Tuesdays.
 Copythorne, Foresters Hall, Bartley.—1st and 3rd Thursdays.
 Dibden Purlieu, Women's Institute Hall.—2nd Tuesdays.
 East Boldre, The Parish Hall.—1st Thursdays.
 Exbury, Women's Institute Hall.—2nd Thursdays.
 Hythe, St. John's Hall.—4th Tuesdays.
 Lyndhurst, Church Room, Forest Gardens.—1st and 3rd Wednesdays.
 Marchwood, The Church Room.—1st and 3rd Tuesdays.
 Minstead, The Minstead Hut.—2nd Mondays.
 Sway, Women's Institute Hall.—2nd Tuesdays.
 Totton, Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.—Fridays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

(ALL Centres commence at 2 p.m. except where otherwise stated.)

(c) **Day Nurseries:**—Nil.

SCHOOL CLINICS.

- (i) **Dental Clinics:**—(For School and pre-School children and expectant and nursing mothers). Held at various Schools and Centres as required. Requests for special appointments should be sent to the Principal School Medical Officer.
- (ii) **Minor Ailments:**—(For School and pre-School children).
 Totton.—Health Centre, Rumbridge Street. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 9.30 a.m.
 Lymington.—Health Centre, New Street. Every Tuesday at 9.30 a.m. (in Term time).
 Brockenhurst.—Dental Clinic, Brookley Road. 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9.30 a.m. (in Term time).
 (Children attend these clinics without appointments.)
- (iii) **Ophthalmic:**—(For School and pre-School children). Held at Christchurch, Totton and Lymington. Attendance only by appointment from the Principal School Medical Officer.
- (iv) **Orthopaedic Clinics:**—Southampton (Royal South Hants Hospital, Fanshawe Street). Surgeon's and Remedial Clinic by appointment. Cases from the New Forest Rural District are also dealt with at Lymington Surgeon's and Remedial Clinic, held at the County Council Health Centre, "Hillcroft," New Street, Lymington.

(v) **Tuberculosis Clinics:—**

Totton Chest Clinic, Bullar Street, Southampton.

Monday, 2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.New cases
Thursday, 9.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.Old cases
Thursday, 2.15 p.m.—3.0 p.m.A.P. Refills
Tuesday and Thursday, 4.30 p.m.—6.30 p.m. ... X-rays

Christchurch Health Centre, Millhams Street.

Monday, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. Previous patients
Wednesday, 2 p.m. New patients
Wednesday, 9.30 a.m. ... A.P. Refills at the Douglas
House Sanatorium.

(vi) **Maternity Accommodation:—**

Maternity accommodation is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, and beds are provided at:—

Hythe Cottage Hospital, Hythe.

Fenwick Cottage Hospital, Lyndhurst.

Hill Rise Maternity Home, Lyndhurst.

Applications for the admission of normal cases for social reasons are made to the County Medical Officer. Arrangements for the admission of abnormal cases and those requiring institutional confinement on account of medical conditions are made by the general practitioner obstetrician direct with the Institution concerned.

Hospitals:—

The hospitals in the District are administered by the South Western Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, through Hospital Management Committees. The Hospitals are:—

Hythe Cottage Hospital, Hythe.

Ashurst Hospital, Ashurst.

Fenwick Cottage Hospital, Lyndhurst.

Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Southampton Chest Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:—

89.4% of the houses in the District, an increase of .9% over 1953, have a Mains supply of water in the house.

The District is supplied with water by two Statutory Undertakings, the Southampton Corporation, and the West Hampshire Water Company, the District Council (water being purchased in bulk from the two Statutory Undertakings) and two private Estates. The Waterworks of both Undertakings are situated outside the District. The water supplied by the Southampton

Corporation is obtained from deep wells in the chalk at Timsbury and Twyford, this water being softened by means of the "Lime Process" and sterilised by "Chloramination."

The water supplied by the West Hampshire Water Company comes from the River Avon at Christchurch, where it is treated by rapid and slow sand filtration, followed by "Chloramination."

In parts of the District outside the limits of supply of the Statutory Undertakings, i.e., Emery Down and the Parishes of Bramshaw and Minstead, the District Council have provided mains, water being purchased in bulk from the beforementioned Undertakings.

In the Exbury Village, which lies outside the limits of supply of both Undertakings, a piped supply in the houses is provided by the Exbury Estate. The source of supply is from a deep well some 300ft. deep, the water being pumped to a water tower, thence by gravitation to the houses and Exbury School.

The Beaulieu Village also has a piped supply in the houses provided by the Beaulieu Estate, and in addition, a supply is available from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company. The Estate supply is gravitational, from an ancient spring known as the "Monks' Well" situated at Hill Top, Beaulieu.

With the exception of parts in the Sway Parish, the supplies from all sources were constant throughout the year. The pressure at times in parts of the Sway Parish was low, but the supply did not fail. The West Hampshire Water Company anticipate that in 1955 a small filtration station will be provided in the vicinity of Sway, drawing water from the new raw water mains to carry an industrial supply to the Esso Refinery.

When this station is in operation, the supply of water in the district within their limits of supply will then be entirely adequate in quantity and pressure.

No waters in the district were found to have any plumbo solvent action and there were no known cases of plumbism.

The following table shows the state of water supplies in the various Parishes :—

PARTICULARS OF THE NUMBER OF DWELLING HOUSES AND THE NUMBER SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC WATER MAINS.

Parish	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses connected to Mains	Source of Supply
Lyndhurst	819	797	689 to Southampton Corporation Mains—108 to N.F.R.D.C. Mains.
Brockenhurst	775	761	Southampton Corporation Mains
Copythorne	776	580	Southampton Corporation Mains
Sway	717	632	West Hampshire Water Company
Fawley	1513	1407	Southampton Corporation Mains
East Boldre	323	199	West Hampshire Water Company
Dibden	1285	1137	Southampton Corporation Mains
Marchwood	322	305	Southampton Corporation Mains
Netley Marsh	606	424	Southampton Corporation Mains
Eling	4538	4512	Southampton Corporation Mains
Denny Lodge	156	30	Southampton Corporation and West Hampshire Water Company Mains
Boldre	716	579	West Hampshire Water Company
Minstead	329	212*	New Forest R.D.C. Mains
Bramshaw	215	92	New Forest R.D.C. Mains
Rhinefield	49	32	West Hampshire Water Company
Beaulieu	366	239†	Partly West Hants. Water Company and partly Beaulieu Estate Supply
Exbury	101	83‡	Exbury Estate Mains and Southampton Corporation Mains

* Includes 73 Huts at Stoney Cross.

† Includes 99 connected to Beaulieu Estate Mains.

‡ Includes 17 connected to Corporation Mains.

(a)	Total number of dwelling houses in District	...	...	...	13,606
(b)	Number of dwelling houses connected to Main supplies	...	...	...	12,021
(c)	Estimated number of population provided with Main supply	...	...	...	42,077

EXTENSION OF MAINS AND OTHER WORKS INCIDENTAL TO WATER SUPPLIES.

Extension of Mains:—

(i) Southampton Corporation: —

Parish	Length of Mains laid in lineal yards	Diameter of Mains (inches)
Eling	562	4" and 3"
Marchwood ...	90	4"
Dibden	12	4"
Fawley	102	4"
Copythorne ...	15	4"
Lyndhurst ...	261	4"
Total ...	1,042	

(ii) West Hampshire Water Company:—

1,869 lineal yards of varying size mains were laid in the Parishes of Sway and Boldre.

(iii) New Forest Rural District Council:—

There were no extensions.

Water Analyses:

(i) Southampton Corporation:—

(a) Bacteriological Examinations:

Water supplied is subjected to regular bacteriological examination, samples being sent to the Ministry of Health Bacteriologist, Winchester, and the Borough Analyst, Southampton. The following Table shows the results of the examinations during the year 1954:—

Origin of Samples	Total number of samples during year	Number of samples showing probable number of B.coli present in 100ml.		
		None present	1 to 2 present	3 to 10 present
Timsbury Wells ...	76	76	—	—
Twyford Wells ...	76	74	2	—
Total ...	152	150	2	—

(b) Chemical Analyses:—

The following table shows the results of a typical chemical analysis of Treated Water from the sources of supply distributed in the New Forest Rural District:—

SAMPLES TAKEN IN NOVEMBER, 1954.—RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

General Chemical Examination	Tinsbury Wells	Twyford Wells
Total Solids	724.8	211.6
Free Carbon Dioxide, as CO ₂	6.0	2.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N.	0.038*	0.033*
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N.	0.002	0.007
Nitrous Nitrogen as N.	0.001	Absent
Nitric Nitrogen as N.	2.5	4.0
Hardness, as CaCO ₃ (Wanklyn's)		
Temporary	126	126
Permanent	57	30
Permanganate figure, as O. (4hrs. 80°F.) ...	0.05	0.05
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	175	145
Free Chlorine	0.25*	0.20*
Reaction, pH	7.2	7.6
Mineral Analysis		
Calcium, as Ca.	65.7	56.9
Magnesium, as Mg.	3.9	1.5
Carbonate, as CO ₃	105.0	87.0
Chloride, Cl.	17.0	19.0
Sulphate, as SO ₄	15.2	8.4
Nitrate, as NO ₃	11.18	17.72
Iron	Absent	Absent
Lead	Absent	Absent
Zinc	Absent	Absent
Copper	Absent	Absent
Phosphates	Absent	Absent

* These figures were obtained from samples which had already been treated by the addition of chloramine.

(ii) West Hampshire Water Company:—

The water supplied from the Christchurch Works is examined bacteriologically daily for presumptive B. Coli and during the year all samples were found to be negative. In addition, complete chemical analysis and bacteriological examinations are made twice weekly. All conformed with Classification I for Statutory Water Undertakings as prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

(iii) Other Supplies:—

A total of 124 samples were taken by the Department, an increase of 38 over 1953, and submitted to the Public Health

Laboratory, Southampton, for bacteriological examination. The following table gives details of the results:—

Source	Number of samples taken	Number satisfactory	Number unsatisfactory
Private Estate piped supplies	73	53	20
Individual well supplies	50	16	34
Main supplies	1	1	—

In regard to the increased number of unsatisfactory samples from the two Estate Supplies, the cause of contamination was found to be the storage tanks in one supply and a polluted source of supply in the other. Remedial work was suggested in each case. The work was carried out by the respective Estates and weekly samples taken after completion of the work over a period of two months to the end of the year were found to be satisfactory.

Of the 15 samples taken, 1 sample contained 1 non-faecal coliform in 100ml. and in the remainder coliform was absent in 100ml.

Informal action under the Public Health Act 1936 and Water Act 1945, and voluntarily by owners, resulted in 48 dwelling houses having well supplies being provided with a main supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The second stage section of the Dibden Sewerage Scheme was nearing completion at the end of the year. It is also expected that the first stage of the Fawley Scheme will commence in the early part of 1955, to serve approximately 800 properties.

The need for such facilities has also become a matter of urgency particularly in Netley Marsh, Copythorne and Sway, and pockets of other Parishes, where the increasing number of houses being built by private enterprise and the natural desire for water closets and bathrooms and other modern amenities is aggravating and extending conditions, giving rise to nuisance. In these Parishes, where the sub-soils have little permeability, many roadside and other ditches have become open sewers as a result of cesspit overflows discharging into them—a natural but undesirable solution to the costly matter of having the cesspits emptied by a Contractor.

Numerous complaints are continually received of these conditions and a great deal of time is taken up in dealing with them. It was found practicable in a few isolated cases to effect some

form of cure, but in the vast majority, it is merely palliative and the conditions recur within a comparatively short time for the economic reasons beforementioned.

While the dangers of pollution of water supplies for the greater part is eliminated by the provision of piped supplies in these Parishes and the possibility of any dramatic outbreak of water-born disease occurring is remote, nevertheless, there is still present a potential danger to public health.

Such adverse environmental conditions are to be expected when sewage disposal has not kept pace with the provision of main water supply and building development. Similarly, the increasing development in the drainage areas has resulted in overloading of the sewage disposal works, thereby increasing the risk of river and stream pollution.

The Council appreciate that these conditions cannot be divorced from sewage disposal and have under constant review the provision of sewerage facilities and the improvement and enlargement of the sewage disposal works. In July I submitted a report on the necessity of sewerage facilities in various Parishes and their order of urgency. A programme of work was then submitted by the Engineer and Surveyor.

While the progress made is significant and the Council have and are doing all in their power to meet the changing environmental scene, the high cost of providing these services is a very realistic retarding factor which must be recognised and accepted in regard to the expediency by which they can be implemented.

While appreciating such a financial commitment towards achieving the desired end result, it is suggested that the high annual recurring cost to the Council in emptying cesspools in the Parishes indicated should be taken into consideration, as it would appear that the present annual cost, which of course is increasing "pari passu" with the continuing development, would largely offset the annual loan charges involved in providing such facilities. I would, therefore again strongly advocate the provision of water carriage systems by way of new and extension of existing sewers in the Parishes indicated in this and previous reports, as it is considered their necessity has now reached the point of relative urgency.

During the year the following work has been carried out in connection with drainage and sewerage, and sewage disposal. A total of 258 premises (excluding new Council houses

completed during the year) have been connected to sewers as follows:—

Parish	Number of houses connected
Eling	158
Brockenhurst	4
Lyndhurst	8
Dibden	88
Total	258

Of this number, 13 were as a result of formal and informal action under the Public Health Acts 1936.

During the year, I reported upon the necessity for extending existing sewers in the Parish of Eling and it is very gratifying to report that they were completed at the end of the year, thus enabling existing nuisances to be abated.

The extensions in the Parish of Eling were:—

Glen Road, Totton	333ft. x 6in.
Oakfield Road, Totton	277ft. x 6in.
Cecil Avenue, Ashurst	400ft. x 6in.
Busketts Way, Ashurst	514ft. x 6in.

In developing land for private building, the following extensions were also made in the Parishes of Eling and Dibden:—

Eling:

Hamtun Estate	650ft. x 6in.
Rushington Estate	340ft. x 6in.
Rushington Estate	2815ft. x 9in.

Dibden:

Jones Lane, Hythe	600ft. x 6in.
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The construction of five additional sludge drying beds at the Eling Disposal Works was commenced. Subject to Ministry approval, it is proposed to modernise this and the Brockenhurst Disposal Works in 1955/56.

Pail Closets:—

The weekly emptying of pail closets at South Weirs, Brockenhurst, continues under Contract.

A revised scheme at an approximate cost of £7,000 for sewerage the whole of this area by gravitation was submitted to the Minister for approval.

Financial Assistance—Connection to Sewers:—

As previously, to facilitate the connection of house drains to the sewers, the Council's scheme of providing financial assistance by way of a loan to owners continues.

32 Applications were approved during the year, involving a sum of £2,483.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The fortnightly collection throughout the whole of the area of domestic refuse and weekly collection of trade refuse with additional collections from beaches and litter baskets as and when required, have been continued. The service is operated with the Council's own staff and plant under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. Recruitment of labour has once again presented difficulties and the complement fluctuated as in previous years, necessitating the working of overtime to maintain the schedule of collection. The increase in building and the inability to employ casual labour during the summer months when the men take their annual holiday aggravates the position and means that excessive overtime has to be worked to maintain the service. Overtime work on health and economic grounds is considered undesirable, and excessive overtime to be deprecated, but, being unable to employ other means, there was no other practical solution. It would appear that most Local Authorities are experiencing the same difficulties.

Transport:—

The cumulative increase in the work consequent upon new building and the progressively increasing population had reached a point where additional transport was required, and the Council agreed to purchase a Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cubic yard Fore and Aft Tipping Vehicle. This type of vehicle completely eliminates manual trimming, making the loaders' task much easier and consequently increases the loading rate. The larger capacity also saves journeys to the disposal point, thereby allowing more time for actual collection.

This, in conjunction with ease of loading, has enabled this vehicle to do the work of nearly two of the side-loaders employed, and will effect a considerable saving per annum. The simplicity of operation, absence of mechanically packing device or moving parts in contact with the refuse saves wear and tear, facilitates maintenance, and should thereby reduce cost. The following vehicles are employed:

Dennis, 10 cubic yard	7
Shelvoke & Drewry 16/18 cubic yard	1
Austin 10 Utility Van	1

One Dennis vehicle, purchased in 1940, is kept as a stand-by for use when others are in for repairs and maintenance.

Disposal:—

All refuse continues to be disposed of by the Controlled Tipping method on four sites at Marchwood, Stoney Cross, Fawley and Sway. The sites at Fawley and Sway are rapidly becoming exhausted, and further sites will have to be acquired in

the near future for these collection areas. Sorting over of refuse by gypsies and similar types has again been prevalent, creating a good deal of unnecessary work and a partial breakdown of the principle of this sanitary method of disposal and, of course, introduces a fire hazard.

Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable covering material at Marchwood. This has, however, been largely offset by using inert chalk, obtained from the Tar Distillery.

The following Schedule gives particulars with regard to the operation of this Service:—

Number of Premises	Number of loads	Equivalent to approx. tons	Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	Trade Refuse Agreements	Gallons petrol used	Mileage
13,606	3,475	12,921	15.4	94	9,301	70,460

Details of Income and Expenditure—Collection and Disposal.
(Year ending 31st March: 1955)

Details	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages				10,325	8	10
Superannuation				38	2	6
National Insurance Contributions ...				323	2	0
Transport—						
Repairs and Maintenance ...	630	11	0			
Petrol and Oil	1,875	6	1			
Licences and Insurance	491	10	8			
Garages	90	1	9			
Contribution to Renewals Fund ...	1,000	0	0			
				4,087	9	6
Additional Garage Accommodation and Alterations				830	0	1
Clothing and Equipment				221	14	6
Plant and Tools				24	7	0
Litter Baskets				18	11	3
Maintenance of Dumps and Sundries—						
Maintenance of Dumps	100	7	6			
Advertising and Sundries	28	6	5			
				128	13	11
Total Expenditure				£15,997	9	7
Less Income :—						
Sale of Salvaged Materials	778	16	8			
Collection of Trade Refuse	382	15	5			
				1,161	12	1
				£14,835	17	6

COMPARATIVE COSTS OF COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL WITH THE PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTING RETURNS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES 1953/54.

The public cleansing costing returns are compiled by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and relate to 390 Authorities, who are required to make annual returns to the Ministry.

New Forest Rural District Council.	Districts with Comparative Population. England and Wales
Population 45,960	30,000 to 50,000
Cost per 1,000 population £331	£489
Cost per 1,000 premises £1,110	£1,527
Cost per ton £1 3s. 1d.	£1 19s. 7d.

The cost per head per annum in this District is approximately 6s. 5d., and the cost per property per annum (i.e. private dwellings and business premises) approximately £1 2s. 3d.

Salvage and Trade Refuse—

The number of Trade Refuse Agreements in force is 94, an increase of 5 over the previous year, and the revenue derived £382 15s. 5d. The following table shows the Scale of Charges adopted:—

Number of Bins	Approx. cost per Bin	Annual Charge
		£ s. d.
1 bin	9d.	2 2 0
2 bins	8d.	3 13 6
3 bins	8d.	5 5 0
4 bins	8d.	7 7 0
5 bins	8d.	9 9 0
Over 5 and not more than 10	—	10 10 0
Over 10 and not more than 15	—	12 12 0
Over 15 and not more than 20	—	15 15 0
More than 20 by special agreement ...	—	—

The weight of materials salvaged and disposed of amounted to over 220 tons, giving an income of £885 4s. 8d., compared with 224 tons and a figure of £911 0s. 0d. for the previous year.

Salvage	Tons	Cwts.	£ s. d.
Mixed Paper	179	4	629 5 3
Clean Paper	34	16	158 2 6
Rags	3	14	84 16 3
Scrap—Iron	2	17	13 0 8
Total	220	11	£885 4 8

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

The scheme for the cleansing of cesspools, free of direct cost, at properties not within a reasonable distance of a public sewer, continued to operate during the year.

This service, which was introduced by the Council in 1946, allows for the cleansing of one cesspool for each property at intervals of approximately, but not less than six months, or two cesspools every twelve months. In the case of a cesspool taking the drainage from two or more properties, two loads per property are removed at regular intervals during the year; special terms apply to business and industrial premises.

The work was carried out under Contract by Cleansing Services (Southern Counties) Limited—formerly the Hampshire Cleansing Service—at the following negotiated terms:—

- (1) 25/4d. for a cesspool not exceeding 1 load of 1,000 gallons.
- (2) 30/4d. for a cesspool exceeding 1 load of 1,000 gallons.
- (3) Business and industrial premises with a cesspool capacity exceeding 2,000 gallons:—29/7d. for the first 2,000 gallons. 24/7d. for each additional 1,000 gallons, plus a surcharge of 9d. per cesspool.

I am again pleased to report that the co-operation between the Contractors and this Department was exceedingly pleasant and productive; as can be expected, in a scheme of this nature and magnitude, a number of complaints were received, but on the whole, throughout the year, the work was carried out tactfully and efficiently.

The disposal of cesspool contents is causing increasing concern. The method generally used is by “spreading” over suitable isolated ground, and it would appear that in a District of this nature there would be large areas which could be used for this work, but, owing to the construction of new premises in all parts of the District, the refusal of the Forestry Commission to permit dumping of this nature within the Forest, and the fact that the general public take great exception to any evidence of this operation, it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain disposal sites.

At the end of 1953, 2,514 properties were receiving the service; during 1954, 205 new applications were received and the service was discontinued at 32 properties, so that at the end of 1954, the cesspools at 2,687 properties were being cleansed free of direct cost. At the end of the financial year, the cost of the service was £6,011—equivalent to £2.3 per property.

The cleansing of cesspools at the Housing Estates owned by the Council and general services at the small sewage disposal works was, as in the past, carried out by direct labour, using a 750 gallon Cesspool Emptier and a crew of two men. Considerable time was lost owing to illness and break down of the vehicle. The time is rapidly approaching when the merits of this method, compared with a favourable Contract, should be carefully considered.

Towards the end of the year, a number of Council owned properties were connected to the new sewer laid in the Dibden Purlieu area, enabling the Council's cesspool emptier to give an increased service in exceptional cases and to undertake work at non-Council owned properties for one and a half days each week.

During the year, 1,696 loads, equivalent to 1,272,000 gallons, were removed at a cost of, as at the end of the financial year, £1,450.

SWIMMING POOLS.

As in previous years, the Swimming Pool at the Girl Guide Headquarters, Foxlease, Lyndhurst, was again in use during the summer months.

The Pool is an outdoor static type, of concrete construction, having a capacity of approximately 45,000 gallons, and is filled from the Southampton Corporation Water Mains.

The agreement between the Association and the County Education Authority continued, and approximately 592 children from Bartley Secondary Modern School used the Pool in May, June and July.

Eighteen samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. The standard generally was satisfactory, having regard to the control being dependent upon the "fill and empty" system and hand chlorination. The Staff at Foxlease were again most helpful in carrying out the advice given on water change, chlorination dosage, cleansing and other relevant matters.

There were no other Swimming Pools in the District open to the Public.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses completed by Council during the year:—

Dibden	72
Lyndhurst	32
Eling	20
Sway	20
Brockenhurst	1
	<hr/>
	145

Number erected during 1953	<hr/> 167
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Number of Houses completed by Private Enterprise:—

Boldre	14
Bramshaw	5
Brockenhurst	4
Copythorne	12
Dibden	21
East Boldre	4
Eling	153
Fawley	43
Lyndhurst	8
Marchwood	10
Minstead	3
Netley Marsh	12
Sway	14
	<hr/>
	303

Number erected during 1953 176

Particulars of Houses owned by the District Council:—

Beaulieu	56
Boldre	60
Brockenhurst	118
Copythorne	30
Dibden	294
East Boldre	22
Eling	549
Fawley	222
Lyndhurst	77
Marchwood	45
Minstead	3
Netley Marsh	18
Sway	81
	<hr/>
	1,575

The number of applicants on the Council's Waiting List at the end of the year showed a reduction of 174 over 1953. The number of "live" applicants, i.e. 911, nevertheless still remains of formidable proportion and the housing of these families remains a major issue.

While I do not know the full effect, the Government's policy of promoting the building of houses for owner/occupation has had upon reducing the number of applicants for Council houses, the Housing Officer informs me that of the 44 tenants who gave up the tenancies of Council houses during the year, at least

half purchased their own. It is also known that many other tenants were making arrangements to purchase or build for themselves at the end of the year, which potentially will release a further number for letting in the future to those on the Waiting List who are not in the financial position to acquire their own houses.

The Council have also made advances under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act and the Housing Act 1949 to 377 applicants, and to date 35 improvement grants have also been granted.

There is evidence, therefore, that such policy is meeting with success in reducing the number of applicants for Council Houses, and it is thought reasonable to suppose that there will be a widening of this effect in the future, thereby progressively confining the numbers to those who are unable to acquire their own houses and who, for various reasons, are in actual need, qualifying them for the tenancy of a Council House.

During the year the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 came into force, providing the statutory powers needed to implement the Government's proposals made in the White Paper—"Houses—the Next Step"—referred to in my last year's Report.

The Act requires all Local Authorities to resume the full exercise of their powers under the principal Acts to facilitate the enforcement of essential repairs of unfit houses and the clearance of slum houses.

The Act also requires Local Authorities to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government within twelve months of the coming into operation of the Act, 30th August, 1954, the total number of houses in their areas considered to be unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered so fit at a reasonable cost; the number proposed to be dealt with in the first five years, and the period of time considered necessary for the demolition of all these houses. In the immediate Post War years, all properties having a Rateable Value of less than £20 were inspected for this purpose. Consequent upon the 1954 Act, it was considered that a re-survey of these houses should be made and at the end of the year, 50 per cent. had been completed. It is of interest to note here that of approximately 300 houses involved, the tenants of only 14 of these houses are on the application list for Council Houses. It is anticipated that the re-survey will be completed by April, 1955.

The apparent influencing factors of the housing need of the District are illustrated in the following table:—

Year	No. of applications on Waiting List	Houses built			Popula- tion of District	Births	Deaths
		Council	Private Enter- prise	Total			
1947	977	167	28	195	39,130	863	423
1948	942	127	12	139	41,200	791	381
1949	926	176	39	215	41,800	773	455
1950	1,050	162	32	194	44,200	707	483
1951	1,200	174	38	212	44,900	812	492
1952	1,200	231	70	301	45,090	771	432
1953	1,085	167	176	343	45,480	795	497
1954	911	145	303	448	45,960	816	439

Number of Families in hutted accommodation at the end of the year:—

The Council’s policy of abolishing these huts continued and a further 51 were made redundant and demolished during the year. Originally, 348 families were housed in hutted accom-
modation; the number has been reduced to 162 at the end of the year, i.e.,

Stoney Cross 89 families.
Setley Plain 73 families.

A further seven families from the Gypsy Compounds were rehoused at Stoney Cross and Setley Plain. Nine families who had previously lived in the Compounds were rehoused from hutted accommodation into Council Houses, bringing the total up to 14.

Periodical visits were made throughout the year, and atten-
tion given to both Camps and their occupants. In conjunction with the District Health Visitor, a number of families coming within the category of “Problem or Incipient Problem Families” were given special attention. In a small number of cases it can be said some environmental improvement resulted. It would appear, however, that the unfortunate characteristics of the hard core are intractable.

Unfit Houses:—

The policy of taking action under appropriate parts of the Housing Acts to deal with houses considered to be unfit for human habitation continued. The following were dealt with:—

- (a) **Number of dwelling houses in respect of which**
 - (i) Demolition Orders made 9
 - (ii) Closing Orders made 1
 - (iii) Undertakings given that the house will
cease to be used for habitation 1

(b) **Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of:—**

(i)	Demolition Orders	5
(ii)	Voluntarily	2

(c) **Number of dwelling houses closed as a result of:—**

(i)	Closing Order	1
(ii)	Acceptance of Undertaking	1

(d) **Number of dwelling houses made fit as a result of:—**

(i)	Formal and informal action	35
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(e) **Number of applications for a Certificate of Disrepair:—**

(i)	Granted	0
(ii)	Refused	2

Number of Houses dealt with (inc. Closing Orders)
since 1946 42

Made up as follows:—

Demolition Orders made	21
Closing Orders made	2
Voluntary demolitions	7

Undertakings:—

1. Premises will not be used	10
2. Works will be executed to render fit	2

42

(ii) Number of houses demolished (formally and
voluntarily) 22

(iii) Number remaining to be demolished 6

Miscellaneous:—

Number of persons re-housed by the
Council as a result of action under the
Housing Acts since 1946 127

Certificates of Disrepair:—

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, permits landlords of dwelling houses let under a controlled tenancy or occupied by a statutory tenant to increase the rent of such houses within limits prescribed, subject to the houses being in good repair and reasonably suitable for occupation, having regard to certain specified matters. On the service of a Notice of increase of rent as beforementioned, the tenant may apply to the Local Authority for a Certificate that either or both of the conditions justifying an increase of rent are not fulfilled; the Local Authority, if satisfied that the dwelling house fails to fulfil either or both of the conditions, shall certify accordingly in the prescribed form.

Only two applications were received. The houses to which they referred appeared to comply with the conditions laid down in the Act and both were therefore refused.

Other Unfit Housing Accommodation:—

The following defects were remedied at the end of the year:—

Defective roofs	32
Defective floors	10
Dampness abated	11
Other items of disrepair (including defective eaves, gutters and down pipes, fireplaces and ceilings)	46

Generally:—

13 Applications for Council houses were referred to me for investigation for medical and social reasons, and recommendations were made accordingly.

In regard to over-crowding, it has not been found possible to keep the records up to date and cases only come to light on complaint. During the year, 11 cases were dealt with, of which six were found to be legally overcrowded. The conditions were abated, by the Council rehousing six families in Council houses and hutted accommodation.

For the purposes of housing generally, including the re-survey of unfit houses as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, a total of 1,086 inspections were made.

Verminous Premises:—

Five houses (1 Council) and four Camp huts were treated for flea infestations.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are 14 sites in the District accommodating 253 moveable dwellings. One new site licence was granted for 25 caravans. Three of the sites with a total of 25 caravans stationed on them had not received Planning permission at the end of the year. Another site with 9 caravans was refused Planning permission. The number of individual caravans licensed is 38, one less than last year. 205 Families are permanently resident in caravans.

There was the usual seasonal influx of caravans in the Forest under permits issued by the Forestry Commission.

185 Inspections were made during the year. A number of complaints were made by the residents of two sites, one being the site referred to in my last Report. Planning permission for a limited period only was granted for the development of these sites for 12 and 25 caravans respectively, conditional upon the provision of satisfactory drainage, sanitary conveniences, water supply and other planning requirements. In both cases, the requirements had not been complied with at the end of the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The effluents from fourteen sewage Disposal Works discharging into streams were sampled by the Rivers Board. Of the 34 samples taken, 20 were found to be satisfactory, 7 unsatisfactory and 7 most unsatisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

There are 27 Schools in the District under the control of the Education Authority, and a number of private Schools. There is also a Residential School for backward children (by reason of chronic illness) between the ages of 7 and 11, under the control of the Middlesex Education Authority.

The building of a Grammar School was commenced at Totton. Work was also commenced on the building of additional classrooms at the Hlythe School and for the conversion of the conservancy system to water carriage and connecting the drains to the public sewer.

At Totton, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Beaulieu, the Schools have waterborne sanitation.

In the first three Schools the drains are connected to public sewers and at Beaulieu to the Estate sewer.

The Exbury, Hardley and South Baddesley Schools also have waterborne sanitation connected to a sewage disposal plant at Hardley, and to cesspools at the other two Schools. The sanitary provision and hand washing facilities as referred to in my last year's Report still fall very far below the standard laid down in the Regulations in a number of Schools. All Schools are provided with a Mains water supply.

School meals are provided in all Schools and in many are eaten in the Classrooms. Milk supplied to the Schools is either tuberculin tested or pasteurised.

It was not found necessary to close any School by reason of infectious disease.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

There are 418 food premises in the district, made up as follows:—

Canteens	4
Butchers' shops	27
Grocers' shops	85
Greengrocers' shops	27
Bakers' (Bread and Cakes)	13
Confectioners' shops	14
Dairies	15
General Stores	55
Hotels	39
Cafes	42
Public Houses	65
Fish shops (wet)	9
Fish & Chip shops	10
Sugar (wholesale)	1
Clubs	12
	418

402 Inspections were made and the following work completed:—

New Impervious floor covering	2
Defective floors repaired or renewed	5
Dirty walls and ceilings cleansed and re-decorated	29
Defective walls repaired	4
New water heaters provided	2
Additional Sanitary Accommodation provided	3
Improved drainage and sanitary accommodation	6
Additional washing facilities provided...	6
Structural improvements, inc. lighting and ventilation	10
Additional refrigerator capacity	2
Provision of refrigerated glass showcases	3

Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938:—

20 Premises are registered for the manufacture and preparation of sausages, sausage rolls, pork pies, pressed, pickled and cooked meats. 18 Are registered for the manufacture of sausages and pressing and pickling of meats, one for the preservation of hams, and one for manufacture and preparation of sausages, sausage rolls, pork pies and pressed meats. 79 Inspections were made and no statutory action was found necessary during the year.

Byelaws under Section 15, Food & Drugs Act, 1938:—

It was not necessary to take any formal action under the above Byelaws. No complaints were received and any errors noticed during routine inspections were rectified.

Licensed Premises:—

One licensed premises was redrained and connected to the public sewer. In two others the conservancy systems were converted to water carriage, discharging into small sewage disposal plants, and improvements to and additional sanitary conveniences provided at two other Houses.

A number of licensed premises have been extensively altered with consequent improvement in the methods of cleansing drinking utensils and of hygienic standards generally.

Clean Food Campaign:—

As in previous years, your inspectors have given this aspect of their work much of their time. Advice and instruction on the important need for hygienic care and handling of food is undertaken during routine inspection of food and food premises. It is felt that the low incidence of food poisoning in the District is reflected in this work, and to the co-operation of the food traders in general.

Literature has also been distributed on “What is Food Poisoning? What Causes It? And How it can be Prevented.” An Exhibition stand was also set up at the Eling Fair held at Totton during July and this attracted many visitors. A large quantity of pamphlets obtained from the Central Council of Health Education was readily taken up, and one hopes that these were read and had the desired educational effect.

Ice Cream:—

131 Premises are registered for the Sale of Ice Cream, an increase of nine over the number registered last year. One establishment is registered for manufacture and sale.

188 Inspections were made and 182 samples of ice cream and 31 samples of ice lollies were taken and submitted for examination by the methylene blue test. The samples were graded as follows:—

	Ice Cream	Ice Lollies.
Grade I (very satisfactory)	180	31
Grade II (satisfactory)	2	—
Grade III (unsatisfactory)	—	—
Grade IV (very unsatisfactory) ...	—	—

The results of the methylene blue test were 100 per cent. satisfactory, which presents quite a different picture from 1949, as will be seen from the following table. It will also be seen that the number of premises now selling this important and

popular food have increased by 78, or 59 per cent., with no doubt, a comparable increase in consumption. With the increasing output of this product, and bearing in mind its potential susceptibility as a danger to health, the results are thought to be gratifying and again, reflect favourably upon all concerned.

The only manufacturer in your District continued to give satisfaction and of the 92 samples taken, all were placed in Grade I. A bacteriological standard for Ice Lollies has not been prescribed, but all satisfied the methylene blue Grade I test.

Ice Cream Samples :—

Results of Methylene Blue Tests—1949/1954.

Year	No. of Registered Premises	No. of samples	Satisfactory %	Unsatisfactory %
1949	53	117	70	30
1950	78	185	87	13
1951	102	136	87	13
1952	108	213	90	10
1953	122	239		2
1954	131	183	100	—

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections: 45.

As a result of the Government decontrolling the marketing, slaughter and sale of animals for human consumption, the Slaughterhouses Act 1954 came into operation on the 5th July, 1954.

The effect of the Act was to impose upon Local Authorities responsibility for securing that sufficient slaughtering accommodation is available for the requirements of their District, and having regard to the Government's policy to bring about a moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities throughout the country, with special reference to the existing Government experimental Slaughterhouses.

A Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee consulted with the organisations representing farmers and meat traders in the District to ascertain what slaughtering facilities would be needed to enable the distribution of home killed meat to proceed smoothly on decontrol and taking into consideration the existing facilities at Funtley and Southampton.

Discussions were also proceeding with the Southampton Corporation and five other Local Authorities for the establishment of a Joint Board for taking over these Slaughterhouses.

The Council, after careful consideration as to the needs for safeguarding Public Health and for the Proper distribution of home killed meat throughout their District, thought it desirable in the best interests of the District to become a constituent member. An application was made by the Joint Board to the Minister for an order to be known as the "Wessex Abattoir Order 1954" constituting a united District for the operation of these slaughterhouses as public slaughterhouses.

The other constituent members are Southampton Corporation, Portsmouth City Council, Fareham Urban District, Eastleigh Borough Council, Havant and Waterloo Urban District and the Droxford Rural District. The Council were also of the opinion that these facilities were sufficient for the needs of the District and that privately owned slaughterhouses in the District could therefore be closed in accordance with the provisions of the Acts. Conditional Licences were granted the Owners of three registered premises for a limited period expiring on the 1st January, 1955, after which date no premises in the District were to be used for the slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption.

It may be asked what public health advantages are gained by public abattoirs as opposed to private slaughterhouses? In a public abattoir slaughtering takes place under hygienic conditions, proper and adequate facilities are provided and, of course, the most important advantage gained by centralised slaughtering is the fact that all animals are ante and post mortem examined, thereby preventing any meat unfit for human consumption reaching the public, and a better carcase both in appearance and condition is produced.

It is also possible to make much greater use of by-products for medicinal preparations, such as insulin, adrenalin, and many other glandular products, others being used in the preparation of certain foods and other products.

The private slaughterhouses in the District are unsuitable for several reasons; they are, in the main, objectionably situated, being in close proximity to dwellings; they do not provide reasonable hygienic requirements and do not, in most cases, afford the minimum facilities for inspection.

They are widely separated, involving a considerable loss of time in passing from place to place, and consequently, it is reasonable to suppose that as pre-war when an appreciable percentage of the animals slaughtered were not inspected, a return to private slaughtering would lead to similar unsatisfactory conditions generally.

I feel the Council's policy on grounds of Public Health in becoming a constituent member of the Board is the right one.

The following food stuffs from shops, stalls and vehicles were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

1,109 lbs.	Imported beef	Bone taint
542 lbs.	Home killed beef	Bone taint
26 lbs.	English pork	Abscess
37 lbs.	English pork	Tuberculosis
20 lbs.	English pork	Decomposition
14½lbs.	Imported pigs' liver	Decomposition
	Lungs of pig	Inflammation
	Lungs of heifer	Enlarged and congested
63 lbs.	Bovine heads (2)	Decomposition
25 lbs.	Cooked ham (2 tins)	Decomposition
47 lbs.	Cooked pork shoulder (3 tins)	Decomposition
17 lbs.	Bacon	Decomposition
20 lbs.	Cheese	Affected with mould
24¼lbs.	Plaice	Decomposition
28 lbs.	Fresh haddock	Decomposition
15 tins	Meat Products	Decomposition
10 tins	Vegetables	Decomposition
10 lbs.	Tomato paste (1 tin)	Decomposition
7 tins	Fruit	Decomposition
5 tins	Jam	Decomposition
4 tins	Milk	Decomposition
2 tins	Fish	Decomposition
1 jar	Brawn	Decomposition

All condemned foodstuffs suitable for animal feeding, other than that required to be returned to the wholesaler or dealt with by the Ministry of Food were collected and disposed of for that purpose at Public Institutions. Foodstuffs not suitable for animal feeding were burned or buried.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938:—

The following qualitative samples were taken during the year:—

Article	Number taken	
	Genuine	Unsatisfactory
Butter and other fats	6	—
Drugs	5	—
Meat Products	11	1
Milk	142	—
Spirits	10	—
Other foods	19	1
	193	2

The 142 samples of milk contained an average of 4·12% Milk Fat and 8·88% Non-fatty Solids.

Meat products:—

One sample of sausage contained only 60 per cent. of meat. The price charged was 2/4d. per lb.

Other Samples:—

The Analyst stated, in the case of a sample submitted as Bread and Butter, that the fat derived from this sample was margarine containing not more than 5 per cent. butter.

Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Section 9(a):—

Proceedings were taken against a food proprietor for selling sausage rolls unfit for human consumption. A fine of £5 and £3 14s. 6d. costs was imposed.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Details of registrations and licences are set out hereunder :

1. Registration:—

- (a) Milk Distributors 23
- (b) Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms) 15

2. Licences granted under:—

- (a) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949.
 - (i) Dealers 18
 - (ii) Supplementary 5
 - (iii) Pasteuriser's 1
- (b) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations.
 - (i) Dealers 13
 - (ii) Supplementary 4

3. Administration:—

Number of inspections to milk distributors and dairy premises and Pasteurising Plant... 125

4. Sampling:—

175 Samples (an increase of 33 over 1953) of milk were taken during the year with the following results:—

Designation	Number of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised ...	117	108	9
T.T. ...	12	11	1
			(for meth. blue)
Accredited ...	3	3	—
Ungraded ...	43	43	—
Totals ...	175	165	10

The Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and Ungraded samples (58) were also submitted for biological examination (Guinea Pig Test) for evidence of Myco-tuberculosis and Brucella abortus. All were found to be negative and no action was necessary under Section 20, Milk & Dairies Regulations.

Of the 9 unsatisfactory pasteurised samples, 7 were from a Pasteurising Plant operating in your District and 2 from a plant in an adjacent area, the milk being sold by retail in this District. The unsatisfactory samples resulted from the use of inaccurate thermometers at both plants. After replacements, further samples complied with the Regulations.

The bulk of the milk consumed in the District is Pasteurised and T.T. During the year, a further number of Urban and Rural Districts in Hampshire were designated "Specified Areas" by the Minister of Food. A "Specified Area" is an area in which only special designated milks, i.e., Pasteurised, T.T., T.T. (Pasteurised) and Sterilised, may be sold. It is hoped that when the Forest becomes a T.T. area, which I am told is progressing very favourably to this end, this District will soon after also become a "Specified Area."

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Amendment Regulations 1953 came into force on 30th September and provide that on and after 1st October, the special designation "Accredited" is determined. The effect of this designation, first introduced in 1935, has, no doubt, caused an increased production of "clean" milk, but its value as regards the production of a "safe" milk has always remained in doubt, and the object of the beforementioned "Specified Areas" is to ensure "safe" milk is supplied to the consumer.

The other provisions of the Amended Regulations are:—

- (1) Every container (whether churn, can or bottle) in which pasteurised milk is transported, or exposed or offered for sale shall be fitted with a cap or cover overlapping the lip of the container. One distributor was found not to be complying with the Regulations. His attention was drawn to the Regulations, and they were soon complied with.
- (2) Pasteurisers are required to put the milk into containers in which it is to be delivered to the customer at the premises at which the milk is pasteurised and as soon as possible after pasteurisation. Thus the sale of pasteurised milk by can and dipper is made illegal. Consequently, retailers who bought pasteurised milk in bulk containers and bottled it for delivery to their customers must now purchase from their suppliers pre-packed pasteurised milk in bottles, cans or churns sealed by the pasteuriser and containing the quantity of pasteurised milk required by their customers. No contraventions of this Regulation were found.

There were 218 producers of milk in the District at the end of the year holding T.T. Licences—an increase of 84 over last year. The bulk of the ordinary milk produced and a good deal of T.T. milk is pasteurised by reputable firms outside the Council's area.

Although T.T. Milk is safe from tuberculosis, it can be infected by other pathogenic organisms and an outbreak, involving some 450 school children, of food poisoning at a number of Schools (not in Hampshire) was traced to a T.T. herd. This is not an isolated case and is quoted as an example to show that while the production of T.T. milk is admirable as a measure against tuberculosis, it gives little protection against outbreaks of other diseases likely to be conveyed by milk. In my opinion, the only milk which can be considered really safe is that efficiently pasteurised, and I would like to see the whole of the milk retailed in the District confined to T.T./Pasteurised.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

153 Complaints of nuisances were received and 1,247 inspections and visits made in connection therewith. The following had been abated at the end of the year:—

Defective sanitary fittings	35
Drainage	82
Insanitary accumulations	10
Ditches and watercourses	10
Keeping of animals	6
Insect pest infestations	3
Overflowing cesspits	28
Miscellaneous	12
	<hr/>
	186
	<hr/>

Tarmacadam Plant—Emission of Dust:—

The plant was satisfactorily maintained and no complaints were received.

Smoke Abatement:—

115 Smoke observations were made of industrial undertakings. There were no emissions in which statutory action was deemed necessary. The modifications to the wood waste plant referred to in my last Report had not been carried out at the end of the year, but from further discussions with the Management it is expected that they will be completed in the coming Spring.

Petroleum Refinery—Fawley:—

The close liaison with Doctor Mahler, the Ministry's Inspector, has been maintained and observations submitted to him periodically. He, in turn, has kept me fully conversant with

the Refinery processes and of the means employed for preventing smell emission, and minimising atmospheric pollution generally. I am satisfied that all that can be done is being done in preventing smell emission, and minimising atmospheric pollution.

FACTORIES

Premises	Number in Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	141	117	4	—
Factories without mechanical power	27	5	—	—
Totals	168	122	4	—

Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of Defects				Defects entailing prosecution
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	4	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Insufficient ...	3	1	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	16	10	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Lack of wholesome water supply ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	5	5	—	—	—
Totals ...	29	20	—	—	—

20 Outworkers were employed in the District during the year.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951:—

There were no business undertakings in the District coming within the provisions of the Act.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948/51.

Section 47:—

This Section makes provision for securing the necessary care and attention for persons who:—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and

- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

The Act provides that if the Medical Officer of Health and another Registered Medical Practitioner certify that in their opinion it is necessary in the interests of that person to remove him/her to a suitable hospital or other place, a Justice's Order may be applied for.

An Order may be made so as to authorise a person's detention for any period not exceeding three months, and the Court may from time to time, by Order, extend that period for such further period not exceeding three months as the Court may determine.

Three cases were referred to the Department during the year—one was removed to Hospital on a Magistrate's Order and the second one, after persuasion, agreed to live with one of the family, while in the third case a brother assumed responsibility.

Case No. 1:—

An old lady aged 93, a spinster living alone, was referred by a Medical Practitioner. She was found to be bedridden and quite incapable, therefore, of taking care of herself. She was in a filthy condition and verminous, and the house likewise. Before becoming bedridden, she had an eccentricity for hoarding wood—so easily picked up in the Forest—and had accumulated a large quantity in the Ground Floor rooms and a serious fire hazard was present as the old lady apparently relied solely upon candles as a means of lighting.

The relatives were interviewed, one living in the same village; the old lady refused to have anything to do with them and they, in turn, did not wish to be involved. A niece was then traced at Gosport. She cleaned up the house and looked after her for a couple of days, but living so far away and having a family, she was unable to stay any longer. There being no other apparent means of help, a Magistrate's Order was obtained for her removal to the Ashurst Hospital, where she died within three weeks of admission.

Case No. 2:—

Another old lady aged 84, whilst not bedridden, was found to be physically incapacitated and living alone in conditions similar to case No. 1. Her relatives were found and, after persuasion, she agreed to live with a member of the family.

Case No. 3:—

A man aged 76, living alone and an epileptic—a brother undertook the responsibility of looking after him and he was eventually admitted to a private nursing home.

The total number of cases dealt with since 1950 is now 9—5 males and 4 females. Their ages were 48, 63, 80, 81 and 76—males and 75, 79, 84 and 93—females.

The number of people in the District within the age group 75—94 shown in the 1951 Census is 671 males and 986 females. Excluding the two men aged 48 and 63, cases which are thought to be exceptional and that cases of similar ages coming within the scope of this Section in the future are considered unlikely, they have been disregarded for purposes of comparison. The percentage of the remaining cases dealt with as compared with the number of old people within the comparative age group 75—94 shown in the Census is—males 0.44% and females 0.4% or a percentage rate per annum of 0.11% and 0.104% respectively.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The duties imposed upon Local Authorities by Section 2 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 to secure so far as practicable that the District is kept free from rats and mice, were carried out by a Rodent Officer and one Operative, employed full time.

The advice and destruction of rats and/or mice on private premises is indirectly free, the cost being borne 50 per cent. by the General Rate Fund and 50 per cent. by way of Grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the year, the Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee determined their Contract Service for the destruction of rats on agricultural premises, but still offer their services to farmers in an advisory capacity. The Council gave careful consideration to the impact the cessation of this service would have upon the statutory responsibilities placed upon them by the Act. They were of the opinion that farmers would welcome a similar service undertaken by the Council.

Without prejudice, therefore, to their enforcement duties, it was decided to offer farmers a similar service on a Contract basis for an experimental period of a year. The charge is based on a rate of 7/- per hour.

At the end of the year, 50 Contracts were operative and the charges made covered the cost of the work involved. It can be said that this service is appreciated by those who have taken advantage of it, and has resulted in getting rid of many infestations and preventing reinfestations. While no specific number of annual inspections is provided for in the Contract form, normally four are made.

The use of "Warfarin" as against the use of conventional poisons has made it possible for those employed to make many more inspections and to undertake the agricultural destruction

service without employing additional labour. The Hampshire Workable Area Committee No. 5, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, held several meetings during the year and have proved most helpful for the efficient administration of the duties of rodent control.

It can reasonably be concluded that the sustained action against these pests is having an appreciable influence on the rat population in the District as a number of very heavy infestations which formerly existed have been eliminated and whereas in the early part of the campaign a large number of those then picked up were old, they are rarely seen now, so that it would appear certain generations have been exterminated and the breeding potential reduced. The Council's Refuse Disposal Sites, Sewage Disposal Works and other Council property were periodically inspected and were found generally to be free from infestation. Rat proofing of buildings has also been given attention, and remedial work carried out.

Details of Work:—

Number of yearly Contracts (as from Feb., 1954)	50
Income from Contracts	£353/10/0
Number of complaints received	227
Number of infestations found	590
Number of infestations dealt with	817

Number of visits made for survey work:—

(a) Dwelling houses	387
(b) Business premises	72
(c) Agricultural Premises	104
(d) Local Authority premises	15

Number of visits for disinfestation:—

(a) Dwelling houses	1,582
(b) Business premises	348
(c) Agricultural premises	189
(d) Local Authority premises	20

Number of bodies picked up:—

Rats	829
Mice	148

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Nature of inspection	Number made
Milk and Dairies	125
Water Supply	191
Cesspool Cleansing	45
Public Conveniences	27
Nuisances	1,247
Infectious Diseases	141
Rooms Disinfected	45
Housing	1,086
Food and Drugs	379
Ice Cream Premises	188
Inspection of Food	54
Factories	132
Refuse Collection and Disposal	184
Verminous Premises	43
Rooms Disinfested	39
National Assistance Act	6
Moveable Dwellings and Camp Sites	185
Smoke Abatement	175
Smell and Noise Observations	243
Schools	16
Swimming Pools	10
Rodent Control	2,717
Meetings and Interviews	248
Miscellaneous	639

Samples:—

Water	122
Milk	170
Ice Cream	182
Ice Lollies	31
Swimming Bath Water	18

Specimens:—

In connection with the investigation of infectious diseases	70
--	----

Totals ... 8,758

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK AND IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

Legal Proceedings:—

Two cases were taken before the Magistrates for failure to comply with Abatement Notices. "Nuisance Orders" were made and complied with.

(b) Sanitary Work:—

Premises disinfected after infectious disease...	30
Verminous premises disinfested	9
Ditches and watercourses cleansed	10
Insanitary accumulations removed	10
Choked Drains cleared and cleansed	45
Drains repaired	37
Water Closets repaired	15
Infestations of insect pests eradicated	6
Keeping of animals	2
Defective cesspits.....	28
Miscellaneous	19

(c) Sanitary Improvements:—

Connections to Main Sewers (other than Council and new houses)	258
Conversions to water closets	9
New drains laid	22
Cesspit and Septic tank systems installed ...	16
Sinks provided	9
Properties redrained and connected to sewers	11
Washing facilities provided	12

(d) General Repairs:—

Roofs	32
Chimneys	19
Eaves, Gutters and Downpipes	20
Walls	42
Windows and Doors	45
Walls and ceilings repaired and cleansed ...	44
Staircases	6
Floors repaired or relaid	10
Firegrates and kitchen ranges	10
Yard pavings	7

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Parish	Estimated mid-year Population	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis			Polymyelitis		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Dysentery	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	Food Poisoning	Acute Pneumonia	Typhoid Fever	Para-typhoid Fever	Totals
				R	NR	P	NP													
Beaumeu	1,231	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Boldre	2,254	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	23
Bramshaw	649	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Brockenhurst	2,447	9	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	25
Copythorne	2,519	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Denny Lodge	610	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dibden	3,347	4	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	35
East Boldre	1,005	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Eling	14,690	3	—	6	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	8	4	—	4	—	2	—	—	32
Exbury	295	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Fawley	6,715	4	—	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	36	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	50
Lyndhurst	2,650	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	9
Marchwood	1,686	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Minstead	1,324	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Netley Marsh	2,348	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	5
Rhinefield	147	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sway	2,043	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Totals	45,960	35	—	30	—	—	1	—	2	1	6	108	5	—	8	7	10	—	—	219

Notifiable Cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year :—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	35	—	—
Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic) ...	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Measles	6	2	—
Whooping Cough	108	2	—
Dysentery	5	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	—	—
Food Poisoning	7	—	—
Pneumonia	10	2	11
Totals	219	6	11

CANCER.

The number of deaths attributed to Cancer was 70—48 males and 22 females—of which 15 were lung cancer. The deaths from this cause in all sites were 20 less than last year, and in the lungs, one more. Of the deaths from lung cancer, 13 were males. The death rate for the year is 1.56 per 1,000 of the population, a small decrease over 1953.

For comparison, the numbers of deaths and rates per 1,000 of the population in the District since 1949 are as follows:—

Year	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1949	81	1.95
1950	96	2.16
1951	113	2.50
1952	65	1.44
1953	90	1.97
1954	70	1.56

DIPHTHERIA.

(a) Notification:—

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, nor were any deaths registered as due to this cause. No confirmed cases of Diphtheria have been notified in the District since 1947.

(b) Immunisation—Statistical Details:—

Number of children at 31st December 1954 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1940) :—

Age at 31/12/54, i.e., born in year	Under 1 1954	1-4 1953-50	5-9 1949-45	10-14 1944-40	Total under 15
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
(a) 1950-1954 ...	53	1,182	2,339	2,383	5,957
b) 1949 or earlier ...	—	—	1,605	928	2,533

Booster Injections:—

Treatments given at Surgeries and Child Welfare Centres	219
Treatments given at Clinics held at Schools ...	1,195
	—
Total...	1,414

Primary Injections:—

Treatments given during 1954	551
------------------------------------	-----

Treatments completed under 1 year of age:—

Treatments given during 1954	263
------------------------------------	-----

There has been an increase, although small, in the number of primary treatments of children under 1 year of age—9, and a more substantial increase in children of all age groups—63, as compared with a decrease of 42 and 45 respectively in 1953 as against 1952.

I referred in my last report to the Registrar General discontinuing supplying Local Authorities with their child population figure, but it is estimated that the number of children in the District within the age groups under 5 years and 5 to 14 years is now approximately 3,811 and 6,489 respectively.

The number of immunised children under 5 years of age is therefore estimated to be 74.1% and within the age group 5—14 years to be 77.7%. The target of achieving the immunisation of 75% of children under one year of age referred to in previous reports still falls short of this target which, it is calculated, must be achieved in order to maintain a well immunised child population—the estimated percentage being 50.3. The percentage for England and Wales in 1953 was 30.4—the current year's percentage is not available.

It might well be that where propaganda fails, the introduction of a combined prophylactic against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough will bring about the desired result; this, however, remains for the present a matter of opinion until a scheme of this kind is introduced.

The Clinics arranged by the Department at the Schools have continued and 1,195 children received booster doses. Since commencing the campaign in 1951, 5,903 treatments have been given.

An appreciable number of children attending the Grammar School and some of the Secondary Modern Schools who receive treatment are not resident within the District. Taking this into account, however, it is estimated that the percentage number of children in the District in the age group 5—14 receiving booster treatment is approximately 90%.

While the level of immunity in children under one year of age in the District does not measure up to what is calculated to be desirable to maintain a well immunised child population, the level attained, together with the number who have received treatment, including boosters within the 5—14 age group, is wholly significant to the freedom of this disease in the District since 1947, the results achieved can be regarded as satisfactory.

Doctor Oona Walker was again responsible for booster treatments at Schools, and her valuable assistance in this direction is very much appreciated.

I am also grateful for the continued help and co-operation of Head Teachers, which contributes considerably to the success of these Clinics.

FOOD POISONING.

Seven cases were notified, involving three families; Laboratory examinations of specimens from all cases and suspected foods eaten in the homes were found to be negative. Although a causal organism could not be isolated, all cases had severe typical food poisoning symptoms.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Only one case, non-paralytic, was notified—a child aged seven (4 in 1953). She was nursed at home and made an uninterrupted recovery. Epidemiological precautions were exercised as recommended by the Ministry of Health.

DYSENTERY.

Five cases of Bacillary dysentery notified (7 in 1953) and confirmed bacteriologically as of the *Shigella sonnei* species. Four of the cases occurred in one family. All had 3 consecutive negative specimens before being cleared. There was no apparent spread of the infection.

PNEUMONIA.

Ten cases were notified (20 in 1953) and there were eleven deaths (23 in 1953) registered due to this cause.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Eight cases were notified as against 20 in 1953.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

A total of 108 cases were notified being 72 less than in 1953, and considerably less than for the past four years. Most cases occurred in the third quarter, which accounted for 36%. As for age distribution, 7.4% of cases were under one year of age, while 50.9% occurred in children of pre-school age, and 41.6% were of school age. A gradual fall in incidence has taken place over the past four years and it is thought to be attributed in the last two years, at least, to the increasing use by Medical Practitioners in the District of a combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough prophylactic. The attack Rate per 1,000 of the population in the District over the past five years as compared with England and Wales is as follows:—

Year	New Forest	England and Wales
1950	7.08	3.60
1951	5.12	3.87
1952	4.28	2.61
1953	4.17	3.58
1954	2.32	2.39

There were no deaths from this cause.

MEASLES.

Although this was not a "Measles" year, it was thought there would have been more cases. The number notified was 6, being the lowest recorded since Measles was made notifiable in 1940. Of the six cases, two were in the age group 1—2 years, one in 3—4 years, one in 5—9 years, and two were adults 25 years and over. There were no deaths.

The following table gives the number of cases notified and the incidence rate per 1,000 of the population since 1948 as compared with those for England and Wales:—

Year	Population	Number of cases notified	Rate per 1,000 population	
			New forest RDC	England and Wales
1948	41,200	235	5.70	9.34
1949	41,480	614	14.80	8.95
1950	44,200	109	2.46	8.39
1951	44,000	612	13.63	14.07
1952	45,000	190	4.21	8.86
1953	45,480	1,213	26.67	12.36
1954	45,960	6	0.13	3.32

SCARLET FEVER.

35 Cases were notified from 10 Parishes, a decrease of 44 over 1953. In most cases the infection was again mild. The illness was common in school children, 68% of the notifications being in children aged 5—9 years. No children under the age of one year were notified, the youngest being 18 months old.

TUBERCULOSIS.

52 Cases were added to the Register—36 primary notifications and 16 cases moving into the District as transfers from other areas, and 8 were removed by reason of having left the District or having died.

Of the 36 primary notifications, 30 were respiratory. There were four deaths from this cause, two less than 1953. The decline in mortality from this disease is gratifying. 43 Cases were admitted to hospital, of whom 18 were notified during the year.

The primary notifications showed a significant fall—there were 24 less than in 1953. The following table shows the number of cases on the Register at the end of the year:—

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on Register 31/12/54 ...	217	137	42	34	430
Number on Register 31/12/53 ...	195	120	38	33	386

New Cases and Mortality during 1954 :—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	3	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
15	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	9	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65*	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	19	11	4	2	3	1	—	—

**Comparability Table of the Number and Rate per 1,000 of the
Population of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis for
the years 1936-1954 :—**

Year	Popula- tion	New Cases		Deaths	New Cases Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	Deaths Rate per 1,000 popula- tion
		Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary			
1936	35,050	18	10	17	0.8	0.5
1937	36,130	21	2	14	0.6	0.4
1938	36,660	13	5	24	0.5	0.6
1939	37,780	17	1	14	0.4	0.3
1940	38,100	27	3	17	0.8	0.4
1941	40,420	39	6	28	1.1	0.7
1942	40,010	24	7	19	0.8	0.5
1943	38,740	37	7	13	1.1	0.3
1944	38,720	18	9	42	0.7	1.1
1945	37,510	25	1	18	0.6	0.4
1946	39,130	25	5	14	0.7	0.3
1947	40,070	36	4	14	1.0	0.3
1948	41,200	30	6	13	0.8	0.3
1949	41,480	26	4	15	0.7	0.3
1950	44,200	34	13	12	1.1	0.3
1951	44,900	40	7	7	1.0	0.1
1952	45,090	22	2	6	0.5	0.1
1953	45,480	50	10	6	1.3	0.1
1954	45,960	30	6	4	0.78	0.08

B.C.G. Vaccination:—

B.C.G. Vaccine is being used to an increasing extent. All young children known to be in contact with a Tuberculous patient are offered the treatment—if a parent is Tuberculous, the treatment is carried out within a few weeks of birth. Children who are about to leave School are being tested and if they are Tuberculin Negative, they, also, are offered treatment. This work is being done by the Chest Physician.

Home Conditions:—

Visits were again made to families having a case(s) of pulmonary tuberculosis in relation to environmental and social conditions and a close liaison with the Area Chest Physician is maintained.

After Care in Tuberculosis:—

The Totton and District T.B. After Care Committee, formed three years ago, continued to give assistance to cases in need. The form of assistance rendered included supplies of fuel, clothing, tools for handicrafts, wool for rug making and milk and groceries. Assistance had also been given to enable cases to have holidays for recuperative purposes and other needs were met so far as funds permitted.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The population has again increased by an estimated 480 to 45,960, an increase of 18% over the past 15 years, and 14.8% since 1946.

The Birth Rate showed a further slight increase, being 2.54 per 1,000 of the population higher than the national average.

The Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest ever recorded in the District, and was 12.1 per 1,000 live births less than the national average. There were 80 per 1,000 live births less than the known highest rate in the District, which was 93.5 in 1903, or for every 100 live births in 1954 only 1.3 babies died under one year of age, as against 9.3 who died in 1903.

The Death Rate also showed a slight decline and was 1.75 per 1,000 population below the national rate.

It is perhaps of interest to note that the average death rate in the District for the 10 years 1903—1913 was 11.17 as compared with the average for the past 10 years, which is 10.52, a decrease of 0.65 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the total deaths, 439, 341 or 78% occurred in persons aged 65 years and more, and of these 226 or 48% of the total deaths were 75 years and over. The greatest age at death registered was 95, of which there were 2, and within the age group 90—95 there were 23 or 2.3% of the total deaths. The average age at death from all causes was 69.4 years.

It is again of interest to note the number of deaths in persons aged 65 and over as per 1,000 of the population who died 50 years ago as compared with the current year.

In 1904 the number who died is recorded as 4.88 as against 7.41 in 1954. It would appear, therefore, that the conception held by many that the old people are living longer is not borne out, at least in this District. What is happening is that more are now reaching the age of 65 than formerly.

The incidence of infectious disease in the District was low and there were no epidemics. The deaths recorded from notifiable diseases were confined to pneumonia and tuberculosis.

The level of diphtheria immunisation in the District would appear satisfactory, as evidenced by the absence of any notifications of this disease since 1947. In spite of this, the percentage of children immunised under one year of age still falls below the target of 75% desired, and it is hoped that better progress will be made in 1955.

The dangerous source of bowel infection due to contaminated water supplies has now been eliminated for the greater part by the provision of main water supplies and it is estimated that 89.4% of houses in the District now have a main supply. The small pockets still relying on well supplies are kept under constant observation. In regard to sewerage facilities, while much progress has again been made, there still remains much to be done in this direction.

Of the other components comprising the physical environment, milk, food and the atmosphere—which appear to be satisfactory—there is housing—which still remains a problem.

With the coming into operation during the year of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act a realistic attack in dealing with the houses considered to be unfit for habitation can now be made.

It can be concluded that the health of the District has been satisfactory throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. HABGOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

